

Transcription of Esther Campbell relating stories. There is no introduction of Esther or the interviewer(s). No date given for interview. She is obviously showing people around the Jarvie Ranch. The man speaking on the tape is not identified, but the woman is one of Josie Bassett's granddaughters, Amy.

Transcribed by Kathleen Irving, February 2001

[The tape begins in the middle of a sentence, Esther Campbell speaking.]

Esther: ...that they hung him on back in 1898 and it used to be down at the Bassett place. But Ann Bassett's husband, Frank, and Ann said we might as well take it because it would just be chopped up for branding wood and be lost, so they wanted us to take it home and put it on the gate. So, that's it there. He wasn't hanged at this place, of course, down at the Bassett place. They left him hanging for three or four days waiting to catch the other three who were with him.

The three who were they trying to catch was Tracy... Harry Tracy was an escaped convict from Salt Lake Prison and he had come this way to try to get away from the prison and he met up with these other two fellows. One was Johnson, who had been to the dance the night before, was sleeping in a little later, too late for breakfast, so the cook sent the little boy, Willie Strang—he was, I think, about twelve years old—to wake him up. He took the dipper of water in there to throw on him and wake him up and it made Johnson pretty aggravated to think his sleep was disturbed, so he got his gun and shot the boy.

But then they caught... He had to leave the country then after that. He was afraid to stay around, so they teamed up with Lant. I don't remember what Lant did or why he was in the country. But the three of them took off down through the Park and they went up on the east side of the canyon of the Green River, the Gates of Lodore there, up in the rocks. They were making their way up through there and by that time they had a posse gathered up here in the Park, of the Brown's Park people, that were following them. They reached the place where they had stopped up there in the rocks and Tracy warned them not to come any further. But Valentine Hoy thought he wasn't afraid of them. He went a little bit further and they shot him right there.

Man: Was he seriously injured or killed?

Amy: Killed.

Esther: Killed him right there. Killed him. So, they had to take him back down to the Park then, to the Bassett place. So, they loaded him on his horse and were going back down to the Park when they met John Bennett, this man who they hung here on this pole. He was bringing supplies up to these three fellows. So, they nabbed him and took him back with them and handcuffed him and kept him there while they still were trying to get the other three, or wanted to. By that time the sheriffs from the three counties had come in. This is when the law came to Brown's Park, in 1898, because the sheriffs from Utah, from Colorado and from Wyoming all met here at that time. That is why, how these outlaws could get by with so many things. They could just step over into the other state and nobody could touch them.

So they had all three of them here this time. While they were arguing about things they lynched Bennett and hung him to this pole. Left him hanging there while they went after the other three. They followed them all through the Sand Wash country, that's this country back over that mountain there. It's a big expanse of just flat desert land.

Man: What's the name of that mountain?

Esther: Well, I don't know what that mountain is, it's just part of this Cold Spring Mountain, I think, up here. But there used to be an outlaw camp over there.

Man: Which direction is that?

Esther: In the Sand Wash country, just over that mountain there. That would be east and north. And they were heading for that camp. So, they followed them all the way, but they kept just ahead of them, a little farther, a little behind them, all the way until they got over in there and by that time—this was in March and it was cold and there was snow on the ground and crusted snow—their shoes were wearing out and they could see bloody tracks on the snow where their feet were bleeding and they were getting a little bit weaker all the time, hadn't had anything to eat. So, they finally caught up them. They captured, well, all three of them, but Tracy was kept, put in the Hahn's Peak jail and kept there and he escaped and they got him again. Finally, they took him to Washington State and that's where they kept him for good. But he kept getting out and everybody had to help try to get him again. I don't know just what happened to Johnson and Lant, but they kept them all up there.

See, our county seat was up at Hahn's Peak at that time. This wasn't Moffat County, it was Routt County and it went clear up to Steamboat and it has been divided since then. That's about all there is tell about this pole.

Man: What was Bennet wanted for?

Esther: Well, Bennett, they just wanted him for helping the others.

Man: I see. He ended up getting hanged for...

Esther: Yes. They were just pretty stirred up about that time. They just had a hold of him, so they hung him.

Amy: It's a wonder my Grandfather Bassett didn't stop that. He was quite a pacifist, but he couldn't, more or less.

Esther: Yes, he couldn't. They stopped him. They handcuffed him, too, I think. He couldn't do a thing with them. Josie told about how she saw them coming with their masks on, the posse, that gathered up up in this end of the country and went down there. She says, "I always remember." I asked her about it, if she knew who they were, and she says, "I remember one who had a slicker sleeve over his head with eye holes cut out." And she said, "Dad," or "Father," I guess she called

him...

Amy: Yes.

Esther: “Father, see these funny people coming.” So, Mr. Bassett said, “You and all the women hide, get out of here, there’s something going to happen here, something bad’s going to happen, so you people stay out of the way, all of you women and children.” So, they just watched what was going on. They hung Bennett then and Pope was the sheriff from Vernal, John Pope. So, they wrapped him in—Ann [Bassett] claimed—they wrapped him in her Navajo saddle blanket to bury him. His grave is up above the Bassett house.

Amy: My dad showed me where that is.

Esther: Uh huh. And I have some pictures of it, too, the old grave. But she claimed that they wrapped him in her saddle blanket. She and another girl, her friend, by the name of Esther Janes, dug him up to find her blanket.

[Laughter.]

Esther: But it wasn’t in there. They didn’t find the blanket, so they figured that Pope stole it.

[Laughter.]

Esther: So, she didn’t like Pope from then on. She never did like John Pope. It was quite a time, in a way, to live at that time. Quite a struggle.

Man: I understand there are some graves up that way.

Esther: There are. Do we want to look at them while we’re out here?

Man: Do they have an interesting story with them?

Esther: Well, yes. I know about two of them, really. It’s Jesse Ewing. This canyon you came down, I suppose you came down Jesse Ewing?

Amy: Yes, we did.

Esther: Jesse Ewing is buried up there and the boy that he killed. His name is Jim Robinson. They were up at up the... Two miles up the river here was an old saloon, rock building. There’s just the remains of some rocks and one grave up there now. But they were at this saloon. They would go up there and gamble and drink, of course, the people in the country and...

Man: Were there many people around here then?

Esther: Yes, there were lots of people in the country.

Man: Ranchers...

Esther: More than there are now.

Man: Oh, is that right?

Esther: That's right.

Amy: Most of them were ranchers, though, weren't they?

Man: How many would you estimate in this area?

Woman: Ranchers, they had cattle. This was good cattle country. Not much winter, snow or storms in the winter, so it was good for cattle.

But Jesse Ewing was a very homely man, an ugly man, a bear had clawed him in the face and he wasn't very good-looking so this boy, Jim Robinson, was making fun of him for being so ugly. Of course, that got Jesse Ewing on the wrong track. He didn't like to be called ugly, although he knew it was true. But he followed this boy. When the boy went to go home, he followed him. It was in the winter time and the river was frozen at that time. It won't freeze over now, since the dam is built, but at that time there was ice on the river and the boy was just crossing the river. Jesse Ewing was behind him and he made a big leap with his knife in his hand and hit the boy in the back with the knife, killed him. So, he went back to the saloon where they were all gathered and said, "If you want to see a pretty corpse go and look down on the river, on the ice." So they did go and gathered him up and buried him up here. Then Jesse Ewing was killed up at his... Did you look at his cabin on this side of the...

Amy: No, we didn't know where to look.

Esther: There isn't any cabin, it's just a rock foundation left up there, but you can see where it used to be.

Man: How far is that?

Esther: It's just up at the head of the canyon. Just before you go out. If you go out that way you can look.

So, Jesse Ewing was mining up in there. He had silver mines. You can see the holes of his mines along the hill there. And if you noticed, I don't suppose you did coming down, the camel that's up on the high hill up here? It looks like a camel. As you go out you can see it plainer against the skyline just before you get up to the top. He used to have a mine up there close to that camel. They called it, the old-timers called it, Bandbox. That's what they knew that rock by. I call it the camel rock.

But he was going to work, he went to work to his mine every day. He had a woman living there with him by the name of Madame Forsythe. Another fellow came through the country and

stopped there with him. And this Madame Forsythe and this other fellow, I forget his name, were planning to run away and get away from Jesse Ewing and go away together. So, they watched Jesse Ewing go to work every morning and kind of kept track of him, and Jesse was getting a little suspicious of them. One day he sneaked back and they saw him coming and looked through the cracks in the building, it was an old log house, looked through the cracks and shot him as he came closer. Killed him right there on the trail coming back to his house. So, they came down here to Jarvie, who lived on this place, John Jarvie, and told him that Jesse Ewing was sick and for him to go up and see about him. So, Jarvie went up and found him dead, of course, and the other two then escaped. They took off.

Amy: Now, the ferry was here, wasn't it?

Esther: It was down the river here a little ways. We can see the pole here.

So, they brought Jesse Ewing down here and buried him. At the time they buried him, according to an old-timer who was in the country then, Pete Palmer's father—he came down to see us when Pete Palmer was a druggist up in Rock Springs, and his father lived here—he was here at the time they buried Jesse Ewing. There was an argument as to whether they should bury Jesse above the boy that he killed, or below. But they finally put him above. The upper grave is Jesse Ewing's and the one next to him is Jim Robinson.

Amy: Now, you were instrumental in getting all these, or many of these, graves marked, were you not?

Esther: I have marked a few of them, but they are hard to find. In the forty or fifty or more years, more than that now, they've been pretty well obliterated.

Man: What year would that have been that he died? Or was killed?

Esther: I think the date is, I've got a little marker up there, the date is on it. I don't remember just what the date is now.

Man: How did he get away with killing the boy without being called to justice?

Esther: Oh, they did anything at that time.

Man: They could get away with it, huh?

Amy: There wasn't that much law in the Park in those early days.

Esther: No, there wasn't any law. See, 1898 is when they said the law came and nothing much happened after that. Had better control.

Man: The ranchers didn't get too upset with Jesse when he killed the boy?

Esther: No, I guess not. I don't think they did anything to him for it. I guess they thought he was justified in being killed, making fun of Jesse.

Amy: Was it a drunken fight or something?

Esther: Yes. I don't know. He was just a young... He wasn't a young boy. He was old enough to be there gambling and drinking. So, he was a young man, but he was a smarty kind, I guess, making fun of Jesse, so they probably didn't care if he did get killed. But they didn't do things in that time too much to try to make things right. Jarvie was killed, too, here, in this house.

Amy: See, it was so far to go to where there would be any law. On horseback, you know, it would be days.

Esther: Yes, no telephones, no radio or anything to send messages.

Man: Are we talking about before 1897 when Jesse killed the boy.

Esther: Yes, it would be before that. Let's see, I should know the date. I have markers on those two graves. There are four graves up there.

Man: Would it be worthwhile to maybe go up there and get a picture?

Esther: Well, it's right up here.

Man: OK. Bob can show us.

Amy: Why don't we go up take a picture of us, of it.

Esther: OK, we can go out this gate and up the road. It's easier than.....

Man: Would you rather....

[Tape interrupted.]

Esther: I've been here about twelve years on this place. Now here are two of the graves. One of them is buried here and the other one we've never located. The fourth one is in this area someplace, but you can't tell where it is. One is Hook and one is Young.

Man: Who are they?

Esther: Well, Hook was drowned in the river, and Young, I forget what happened to him. But some claim that he was buried up by that saloon, two miles up the river. And some claim he was here. So, I don't know how anybody is going to know. I don't think he's buried up by that saloon. There is a grave up there, but I think it's someone else's.

Child: How do you find all these?

Esther: Well, these graves...

Boy: Were there grave markers or something?

Esther: No. We had help finding these graves. It was Ann Bassett and Josie, both, helped us. They were here at the time they were buried and knew where the graves were supposed to be, but we hunted around here quite a while. They knew it was up here above the house here somewhere, but we hunted quite a while 'til we found the right spot.

[Tape interrupted.]

Amy: She was ninety in '64.

Esther: Oh, she would be. Ann would be, too. In two more years Ann would be ninety.

Amy: They were my aunt and my grandmother. Josie's my grandmother.

[Sounds of looking through brush.]

Esther: I think there are yellow ribbons up there marking them off.

[Background conversation unintelligible, then tape interrupted.]

Esther: You can turn that marker over, so it can show. Oh, he's going to get a picture of it that way?

Boy: The one to the left is Robinson?

Esther: This one's Robinson, the boy.

Boy: Who did you say this one above him was?

Esther: It's Jesse Ewing that lived up this Jesse Ewing Canyon.

[Instructions for taking a photo.]

Amy: Now, they'll probably bring them here because wasn't this little Jarvie place a store? Sort of a center?

Esther: Yes, he had a store and it was the ferry stop. The ferry crossed the river right down here. I'll show you the pole where they anchored it. That is Sears Canyon up there and that was the

main road at that time. They called it Mail Draw or Sears Draw. The mail came down that way, and they also brought government supplies down this way, stopped here at Jarvie's and went on up to Fort Bridger through this way. This was the main road then, up Red Creek. So, this was quite a stopping place at that time. He did have a few cabins, I think, to let people stay in. He had the store and, I think, a saloon, and he had the first post office here in 1869, up at this end of the Park.

Amy: Now, my grandfather Bassett worked in a post office, too, did he not?

Esther: He had the first post office down in that end of the Park.

Amy: The other end, huh? It wouldn't be where Graystone is though, would it?

Esther: No, it's down there on their place.

Amy: Right on the Bassett place.

Esther: On the Bassett place.

Amy: I haven't been around there much.

Esther: The county road went right through their place. Now it's straightened out of going across, but the county road used to follow up along the mountain through their place.

Amy: We'll have to go down there with you sometime and have you show me where my people were.

Esther: Yes, if you haven't been there, Amy, we....

Amy: I've just been to the Bassett Ranch. I haven't even been over to Uncle George's.

Esther: Haven't you? Of course, I think Tom Blevins leases that, too, puts up the hay.

Amy: Was this the place where Isom Dart was ...?

Esther: Isom Dart was killed up on the mountain a distance from here and his grave is up on top. I have a picture of his grave, too. I run around 'til you can't keep up with me.

[Laughter.]

Esther: So, Isom had a place up on the mountain, a little spring, that he called home.

Amy: These kids have a copy of *Where the West Stayed Young* and they've been reading. I guess most of that is pretty factual, isn't it?

Esther: Well, there's a lot of it that isn't. I suppose every book...

Amy: So, a lot of it is hearsay anyway. All of us now have to hear it from somebody.

Esther: Well, we used to figure that it was pretty much baloney. His book. But he has some good pictures. He got the pictures. I gave him some pictures and they were Josie's to begin with. I made copies of them. So, he has good pictures and it's a very attractive book, with the brands in the margin, but Duward used to make corrections. He has all the margins corrected.

Amy: Josie has... I wish I'd had her book. She's written a lot of stuff in her copy of the book, but it isn't the same copy as mine. This group has my copy.

Esther: Oh, uh huh. Well, I have Duward's copy and he has written quite a bit in the margins and made corrections. It's hard for anyone, I think, to make a correct book.

Amy: Duward was in this country, though, earlier than you, was he?

Esther: Yes, he was, and he could remember things so much better than I do. Could tell them better.

Amy: You could talk to Ann and Josie, but, you know, you'd always get two sides to the story by talking to those two.

Esther: That's right. Just like the Bennett, who they hung on that pole. Josie said he was a nice, very well-liked man. He was a carpenter and did lots of work, good work in the country.

Amy: She could always see the good side of everyone.

Esther: And Ann says he was a dirty operator. But that's the difference between Josie and Ann.

Amy: She always would spread it, you know, to the less pleasant side. She was telling us that Butch Cassidy was a real gentleman. He always treated women right and there was nothing mean about Butch Cassidy.

Esther: That's the story about him. I think all the stories about him bring that out, that he was a gentleman. He finally did get married according to an article I got in a letter yesterday, told that he was killed, that he *died* of cancer in Spokane.

Amy: Rather than being killed in...

Esther: Well, that's what Lula Parker's book is about, you know, trying to prove that he wasn't killed in South America, that he came back to the States. I gave her a little letter on what Duward knew of him to put in her book. You say you haven't read the book?

Amy: I don't own a copy, but I plan to get one. Dad has one, but I don't.

Esther: Well, look on page 210, is my letter in it.

Amy: All right, I can...

Esther: I can show it to you down here if you have time to read.

Amy: Well, we better go down and see this Jarvie house.

Esther: Well, we can go right over by that trailer house.

Amy: We need to see the ferry first.

Esther: Yeah, the ferry's down here.

[Sounds of walking.]

Boy: Are those the only four people that have been killed around here?

Esther: Well, there's about seventy-five to one hundred people through this Park that are buried down here, all over, here and there, there's no way of finding them unless you have some clue as to where they are.

Boy: These are the only four you know of, huh?

Esther: Those are the only four that are up here on this place.

Man: Is this lumber from one of the old buildings?

Esther: No, this was... Bill Allen that lives in that big house down there, they didn't know where they were going to move and the government, the Park Service, took the place away from him, or bought it from him, were going to condemn it, so they sold it. Then he didn't know where to move. He used to live over where Folkses(?), they called it the Brown's Park Livestock Ranch. And he had lots of stuff and didn't know what to do with it, so he told him to bring it up here and store it until he knew where he was going to move and it's still here. Just their old scraps. He comes up here and digs through it and finds a treasure now and then that he needs.

Amy: Now where's Radosevich's Ranch from here?

Esther: Six miles down the road.

Amy: It's a little further. George thought that Bill's place was Radosevich's. That's Bill's.

Esther: No, that's Bill Allen. They are six miles down on the left side. As you go down, if you go back that way. But maybe you won't, though, maybe you'll go back up the canyon.

Amy: I think George mentioned we were going out the other way. So the kids could get to see the length of the place.

Esther: This was an old stagecoach, since Jarvie's days. This used to be his stage stop. When we first saw this, it had the four wheels right here by it, but somebody has packed the wheels off. They're pretty precious nowadays. But it had a fifth wheel here you see, what they called a fifth wheel.

Amy: Would that be for a spare or...

Esther: No, it makes it turn better some way or the other, turn on a sharper turn. For a stagecoach, maybe, they had to make some pretty sharp turns.

Amy: Can you imagine how little the body of that thing would be up there? It would really be close quarters, wouldn't it?

Esther: This is the... It's upside down here, you see. It was beginning to rot, so we put a few pieces of board under it. But the wheels... the wheels were... I have one wheel down there that I think came from this. Part of a wheel. They weren't real heavy wheels.

Amy: Is this where the old ferry was then right on over here?

Esther: No, we'll probably have to go on back and down to the house to see it. The trees are in the way to see it. It's down below the house a ways, but we can go back down the road again.

Amy: Now, this ranch, that wasn't where my people were at first, is it? Is that where Grandpa Bassett...

Esther: No. Now, you look, you asked about Radosevich. That's where they... That's six miles down here and that's where Uncle Sam Bassett had the place on the right side of the road from—Radoseviches live up this way—and Uncle Sam's place was down that way. So that's where the Bassetts, Herb and his family, moved, lived with him for a while. Then they heard about, I think it was Judge Conway told them, about this nice spring down the country, so they moved down there. Ann was just a baby at that time.

Amy: In her writing she says she thinks she was the first white child that was born in the Park.

Esther: She was supposed to be the first white child born in the Park. I have a little book down here that kind of sums up all this stuff. I can read it to you. It's one I wrote for, oh, Craig [Colorado] had their, I don't know what, their Grand Jubilee celebration, I think it was.

Amy: I remember. Josie went up there for that.

Esther: They had me write an article to put in the book.

Amy: This would be valuable for this group to know some of these things.

Boy: Was there many Indians up here?

Esther: The Indians. There used to be Indians here and they were friendly. They were very friendly.

Amy: We need to get a whole section on the Indians. We need a section on the early settlers and then another section on the Indians.

Esther: Now, I understand, according to Glade, they're writing a book or what?

Amy: This group is writing a book called *Tamarack* and they interview early settlers and whoever has historical... That's what this group is doing today, getting materials for their book.

Esther: That's nice that they can go and see the country and where it all happened.

Amy: It makes a good field trip for them, really good experience for those of them who want to get into journalism.

Esther: And it's a nice day to do it in.

Amy: Yes. A beautiful day.

[Sounds of walking.]

Amy: It takes a lot of work to keep this up.

Esther: Well, there is a lot of work in the spring. Let's get this out of the road, though. [Sound of something metal being moved.] It gets so filled with trash and whatever.

[Mumbling.]

Amy: See the pole? Right down there by that first tall tree. It has a cross bar on it? That's where they anchored the ferry and Jarvie ran the ferry here. There was another ferry down at Bridgeport that Nigger Speck operated. They called him Nigger Speck. His name was....

Boy: I guess he was black.

Esther: Williams. He *was* black.

Amy: When I saw him, he was freckled.

Esther: He was a freckled nigger. They called him the Freckled Nigger.

Amy: His name was Williams, wasn't it? Speck Williams.

Esther: Yeah, Speck Williams.

Amy: He came to mother and dad's house at one time.

Esther: He died over in Vernal. He lived with Henry Lee and his brother, I think, quite a bit of the time.

Amy: The old gentleman was quite old when I saw him. I was like the age of these kids.

Esther: I never did see him.

Amy: He was kind of faded looking, sort of. He wasn't very black. He was more a dark yellow with lots of black freckles everywhere. And real curly hair. His hair looked kind of red.

Esther: Oh? I know he never was a real black Negro, but he was a friend of everybody in the Park.

Amy: And that's what he did down there is run the ferry, huh?

Esther: He ran that ferry down there at Bridgeport, the next bend in the river down there. And this one was Jarvie's ferry and the people that crossed here would sometimes stay in his cabins.

[End of side one. Conversation begins again without an introduction.]

Esther: Outfits would come down, move all the soldiers across the river here and other people that were traveling through, but the soldiers were all brought through here and taken up to Fort Bridger this way, up through Red Creek Canyon, was their main road then.

Amy: Well, now, the people coming from the east, and wanting to go down like to Uinta Basin, they'd come across here, wouldn't they?

Esther: They'd cross here, too. They could cross their wagons, you see, here, and then drive up the Sears Canyon up there. You can still go up Sears Canyon with a Jeep.

Amy: As I understood it, this old Thorne couple that we used to work for so long, George and Eliza Thorne, came this way.

Esther: Oh, did they?

Amy: Yeah, they were in Rock Springs a while and then went on down. Old George's father had gone on ahead and settled early in Ashley Valley. And I wondered if this was the place. Anyway, I interrupted.

Esther: That's okay. That was also called Mail Draw because that's where the mail came down and Jarvie had the post office here in 1869. So, it was right on the road through the country. There was no road up Jesse Ewing at that time or not even Irish Canyon. Irish Canyon was built later. Frank Willis used to tell about the Irishmen that built the road. He was with this group, or... He wasn't with the group, but later, I think, quite a few years later, they were up there riding for cattle, Frank and some of the other men from the Park, and they stopped at the head of Irish Canyon. There used to be water in that lake, they called it Irish Lake. There is a little now, but it used to be quite full of water. They stopped there to camp and took their horses up in the rocks up this way to feed them and hobble them and fix them for the night and when they were up there, they found an old trunk, up in those rocks. So, they brought the trunk back down to camp and dug in it and found lots of treasures, old clothes that they'd gotten from a train robbery, I think, and hauled it down there. There was old men's clothes, you know, long-tailed coats and high hats and so on.

Amy: That were out of date probably.

Esther: Oh, way out of date! They all grabbed something and put it on for their ride the next day. They put these old clothes on and rode all day after the cattle with these funny clothes on. When they got back, they were so old and rotten and that, they were all split in every direction. They didn't have any clothes when they got back to camp. But Frank did find a little book in that trunk and he showed us the book and it had quite a few notations in there about the date, and things that were happening at the time the trunk had been put there. I don't remember all the notations, but he lost the book. When he passed away up there, I think it disappeared, in the rest home.

Amy: This is the old post office here, isn't it?

Esther: Well, some say this was Jarvie's saloon.

Amy: Instead of the post office?

Esther: I don't know where he had... He had some more buildings over this way.

Man: There's a stone there that says Bob McElder, 1852. Is that authentic or...?

Esther: Oh, everybody wrote their name in here about that time.

Man: 1852?

Esther: I don't think it's authentic. I've never heard the name, you know.

Amy: It's written on there.

Esther: Is it? Back on the back side?

Man: Right here, McElder.

Esther: There's some Jenkinses written here. They all wanted their names on, of course. But it could be. It could be, I suppose. But he was here in about 1908. Jarvie was killed in about 1908 or 1909.

Man: So, 1852 would have been too early?

Esther: It would have been too early. He was just building this house. The man may have been here at that time, but he didn't write the name on himself because Jarvie was building it. According to Minnie Crouse, who was born down here in the Crouse place, in Crouse Canyon, she's still living... She's about 94 or 95 now.

Amy: This was the lady I mentioned, where she lived up here. I don't know whether she's up there or not.

Esther: Minnie's Gap. She's in Arizona, but that was her homestead, Minnie's Gap.

Man: She lives in Arizona now?

Esther: She lives in Arizona. And she talks like she wants to come up again this summer to visit. She likes Brown's Park.

Man: If she does would she be an interesting person to talk to?

Esther: Well, yes, she might make connections. If she does come up. She was supposed to come last summer, and she didn't, but I can let Amy know if she comes up.

Amy: Yeah, we could get together.

Esther: But this building, according to Minnie, was built just before Jarvie died, and they didn't even have the roof on it. But others claim that it *was* his saloon, so according to that... Minnie was just a young girl. She wasn't in the country too much. She went away to school every winter, then came back for the summers, but she said she used to ride down here to see Jarvie and borrow books from him and so on. He was a friendly old gentleman, always lively and full of fun. So this old building.... I have had quite a lot of old stuff in here. Climb over the rocks. It's not cleaned up at all.

[Noises of moving around.]

Esther: The Allens came up and got some of their... There was some old furniture in here that they wanted us to keep for them until they got ready for it and now they got ready for it. Also, my trailer, Glade Ross is fixing it up in shape to make a little trip in it. So, we had to unload it and bring everything in here. But this is some of the old things I had in here. This is Queen Ann's pajamas.

Amy: That's my Aunt Ann. People began calling her that for some odd reason. Maybe Esther knows how she came by the name.

Esther: Well, for different reasons. She was very queenly herself.

Amy: She was.

Esther: And she was a leader, very strong character.

Amy: This Hi Bernard was her husband. He killed that deer.

Esther: He killed the deer in 1908. And Frank Ranney, that was Josie's husband's brother. Josie was married to Charley Ranney. Frank Ranney mounted it in 1908, so it's pretty well preserved.

This was Ann's clothes that Frank brought up in suitcase to us after she passed away. I think he told us he brought you her suit.

Amy: I have it. This is John Jarvie's picture over here, this gentleman.

Esther: He was an old man with white hair and pale blue eyes. It looks pretty junky in here, but

Amy: Whose shoes are these?

Esther: They were my mother's.

Amy: Can you imagine?

Esther: Yes, we've had several old-time things we've put on. We've replayed the Outlaw Thanksgiving Dinner when the outlaws entertained the settlers in Brown's Park.

Amy: Is this the one when Josie came over?

Esther: Josie came over to take part in it, or she was one of our guests at the table. We all dressed up as some character at that time. Lucille Buffam dressed up as, I think she was Mrs. Blair, and she wore the shoes, they fit her and she wore Margaret Dickinson's mother's wedding dress. So, this purple glass—there was a stray cat came here this winter and he'd sleep in here and I surprised him in here one time and he flew up into the window trying to get out and knocked a

lot of that stuff down and broke it. I haven't cleaned it up yet. But I'm going to have to get busy.

Amy: I see the keyboard on this old typewriter. It isn't like ours. It's a different keyboard.

Child: Is that a typewriter or is it a press or something?

Amy: It's a typewriter.

Esther: It's an Oliver. That's the kind I learned on.

Amy: I did, too. Ed Lewis had one and he let me have it.

Esther: Ed Lewis?

Amy: But I found out the keyboard was different from what they were teaching at school, so I had to learn again. Then, of course, this old telephone here. That's the way the telephones were.

Esther: We used that telephone for several years when we lived up on Douglas Mountain at Teepee Springs.

Amy: See, if someone's ring was three, you'd ring that around three and hear it in your house.

Esther: Everybody had their own ring. Two short and one long or so on. But we used it between our place and the smelter place for two or three years.

Yes, different types. Waffle irons over there, some of the old-time waffle irons. I'll have to get it straightened up so you can see what's here. We're having a ...

Child: Would you still be able to type paper on it?

Esther: Oh, yes. Yes, it works. The only thing that's wrong is this "F" sticks.

[Background chatter, can't be heard properly.]

Esther: I have story about that thundermug.

Amy: Who are these?

Esther: Well, this is Cloy Vaughn and this is Duward and this is me. We dressed up for a parade in Ride and Tie Days at Craig and we made a float for our club to represent Brown's Park. And this was Father Escalante's float.

Amy: Oh, I see.

Esther: And we were the priests on there.

Amy: I see why the habits. Tell us about this. You started to tell us something.

Esther: About the thundermug, yes. There was a man and his daughter and her husband came here one day, it's been about four or five years ago, and he came in and said to his daughter, "Do you see that? Do you know what that is?" And she says, "No, I don't believe I do." And he said, "That's a thundermug." "A thundermug?" and she turned it all over and looked at it and she still didn't seem to know, so I said, "That's what you keep under your bed if you don't have a bathroom." "Oh?"

Amy: She probably still didn't get it.

Esther: So, then she called her husband in and said, "Do you know what that is?" And he looked it all over, took the lid off, and every way, and said, "No, I don't believe I do." And he said, "But it must be some kind of a casserole dish!"

[Laughter.]

Child: I'll pass up on that casserole.

Esther: You don't want any spaghetti and cheese, huh?

Child: Yeah.

Esther: Well, my mother said they used to buy those back in her day. They were nice vessels, you know, with a lid on and all. She said people used to buy them and keep them just clean to keep their cheese and stuff in, because they had covers. Now we can get plastic things with all kinds of tight-fitting lids. But I guess things weren't so plentiful then. And the telephone, we put up a teepee and we made our own telephone line down to the Vaughns. It was about four miles down to their place, straight down the mountain.

Amy: A teepee is where you and Duward used to live? Teepee Springs.

Esther: That's where we lived and Ann herded her bulls. That was Bull Camp, she called it. She had about 250 head of bulls that she herded up there for all the cattlemen in the country. They paid her a dollar a month a head. So, for 250 bulls she made \$250 a month. That was good wages at that time. Everybody else was getting \$30 and \$35 probably. So, she was making lots of money. Her brothers, she had her brothers' bulls in there, too, but they didn't pay her in money. They gave her a nice pair of spurs of something like that for her summer's work. So, she told us quite a bit about her time herding these bulls.

She would get up in the morning early and turn them out. She had to keep them in the corral at night. She would corral them every night and there were certain ones who were fighting bulls and she had to put them in separate corrals and pens. The old corrals up there that she used for her bull corrals were what we built our house out of up at Teepee, those old poles, part of it.

So, she would turn them out in the morning. She'd put a handful of raisins in her pocket. She wouldn't stop to eat breakfast, she'd put those raisins in her pocket and that's what she'd call her breakfast, eat while she was working, and get them all out on grass in the morning. Then she had a log up on the mountain, on the ridge above where we lived, above Teepee Springs, a big, old, fallen pine tree. She'd sit up there and write her diary every day.

So when she came in 1949 she wanted to go back and find that log, because she had lost that part of her diary. It was when they called her to trial in 1909. She used to be up there in 1904 to herd these bulls. She'd go up on this log to write her diary and take her book and when she was through writing and put it in a lard bucket. She told us that was Cataline Oil. Cataline Lard was the brand name. We don't have it now. So, she'd hang that bucket up in the tree, the pine tree, for the day and go back, take care of her bulls. Next day she'd go back and write some more in her diary. But she had to leave in a hurry at that time for her trial in 1909 and she forgot to get her bucket with the diary in it.

So in 1949 she came back to the schoolhouse. I was teaching down there in Brown's Park School, and she came to the door and she knocked on the door and said, "Is Stewart Camel here?" And I said, "No, he went to town today." She said, "I don't suppose you know who I am?" And I could just tell by the looks of her, you know. I just had a hunch. I says, "Well, I'm not sure, but I think you're Ann Bassett." She said, "You're right!"

She wanted us to come over that night and we did. But what she was out here for at that time was to hunt that bucket with her diary in it, because she was writing her life story and wanted some of the information in it to put in her story. So, we came up with her, got horses and rode up there. I took her picture up there on her log. I've got that picture. I can show it you. I think I had a print made out of it. Most of my pictures are slides, but

Amy: But she didn't find the bucket, I'll bet, after forty years.

Esther: She didn't find the bucket, no. We looked all over in the pine needles and the pine cones, and we looked over the hill where it might have rolled down, but we couldn't find it. But we heard about it later. Duward went to Ora Harris' lumber office in Craig and he was telling somebody, some customer there, about the diary, Queen Ann's diary, that he had. And Duward was just listening. After the man left, he asked Ora Harris, he said, "Could I see that diary, please? If it's Ann's, I know her handwriting and I can tell you if it's the authentic diary or not that she had lost." And he said, "Well, yes, I'll let you see it some time, but I'll have to hunt it up." He said, "I think it's up in the loft, in the attic. And it may be that my wife threw it out in the dumps."

Amy: Oh, my.

Esther: And he never has found it to give it to us. But he said if he found it, he'd give it to us.

Amy: You'd surely know that handwriting. It'd take all you could do to read it.

Esther: Yes, backhand printing.

Amy: I have a son that writes the very same way. Sometimes it makes you feel, "By golly, that

looks familiar.”

Esther: Yes.

Amy: Because Ann used to write to us a lot.

Esther: It was very neat.

Amy: This is a picture of my grandmother, kids, in front of her house there at Jensen.

Esther: Yes. And the trivet that’s hanging under it belonged in the Bassett family in early days. It’s not as fancy as the ones they make now, but Ann gave it to me.

Child: Where did you get this alligator?

Esther: Well, it was in an old wreck of a car that had been turned in down there at Showalter Motor, you know where that is. And Duward’s sister’s husband was head mechanic at Showalter’s at that time, Shorty Peterson, and so they turned the car in and that alligator was in it, so he gave it to us.

Man: What’s that thing hanging on the wall? Is that for cow herding?

Esther: That’s a powder horn and it measures the amount of powder. You flip that little handle. Now the quirts on the wall, that one is Hi Bernard’s quirt, Ann’s husband, and the other one is lying down on the shelf there. It was Ann’s quirt.

Amy: In case we might be running short of time, maybe we better get Esther’s story about the...

Esther: He said two hours, but I didn’t notice what time it was when...

Amy: But the Indian part is what he really wants, too.

[Taping was stopped for an unknown period of time. When it begins again, the group is again outside and Esther is speaking.]

Esther: Now this was the wheel I believe has come off the stagecoach. It’s not a very heavy wheel.

[Pause in conversation.]

Esther: I think it will take them more than two hours if they are going to the Gates of Lodore. It takes almost an hour to get down there.

Child: Do you think we should go get our lunches?

Esther: Well, what is it? 11:30 or so? You can bring them in and we can eat here in the shade, if you want to go get them.

Child: OK.

[Pause in conversation.]

Boy: Where did you collect most of your stones and that?

Esther: All over. This is a piece of that obsidian. I'll give you a piece. This is some petrified wood that has a worm hole in it. So they had worms in that day, too. This is some polished pieces that friends have given us. This is the brown obsidian.

Boy: That's different.

Esther: It's not as good quality, they say, as the black. This kind is called oolite. I've got a better piece that shows a little egg-looking... Here it is. On this side it's polished. It looks like little eggs or something. It's little animals. It's called oolite.

[Pause in conversation.]

Amy: Shall we get the gang together and go in the Indian room? Or do you want to rest?

Esther: Someone went out to get the lunches to bring them down here.

Amy: Well, maybe they want to eat before... We've got plenty of time.

Esther: Well, we don't have to, but we can eat down here in the shade, so I thought they'd just as well have the lunches.

Amy: McKelly won't be back here until 1:30 he said. No, he said we had to leave by 1:30, but it's only 11:30. So we've got plenty...

Esther: Yes. And it's going to, as I was thinking, it takes almost two hours to get down there, another hour to get down there. You know this, I guess you don't, that's Craig people. This is Dowell Fitzpatrick who's writing that last frontier book. He's written two volumes and the third one is being edited. This is Johnny Millheimer...

Amy: Oh, on this tape you were going to read us this article.

Esther: Yeah, we can do that before the Indians, because....

Amy: Yeah, let's do.

Esther: Maybe we could do that now, if you aren't getting tired of it.

[Taped stopped for an unspecified amount of time.]

Esther: He hadn't told it very often, but he told that just before he passed away and he could hardly talk, so I wrote it down then and sent it to Lula Parker, she had Dora Flack—Dora Flack wrote the book for her—she put it in there to show, to try to help prove that Butch Cassidy wasn't killed in South America; he came back to the States. And he worked for Duward's father. Duward's father was superintendent of the ICS, that's the International Correspondence School, down in Texas. So, he worked for him as a salesman.

Amy: A picture of Uncle Sam. There's Grandpa Herb.

Esther: I got these pictures from Josie.

Boy: Is it John Jarvie?

Esther: It is, John Jarvie. I don't think I told you how he was killed. He lived out here. His house, or his store was out there about where the clothes line is, just the other side of the house, where that lawn is. But his house, I think, where he lived, was out the other side toward where that little trailer is. He was fixing his supper and these two shepherders came about supper time, toward evening. And he said, "Well, I'm just getting supper," he said, "I'll put two more plates on the table and we'll eat. But wait until I go out and turn the water on my orchard."

So he went out to turn the water on his orchard and while he had his back turned, they shot him in the back of the head. Took him by the heels and dragged him out through that little gate and down to the river. They knew what had been done because they could see the tracks where they had dragged him through the sand and through the rocks. Little chunks of his snow-white hair hung on the rocks and so on and they could see where they had pulled him down there to the river, loaded him in a boat.

Josie was the one who figured that's what had happened, that he'd been put into the boat, and tied in and then sent adrift down the river. They thought the boat would go on through the big canyon, but it didn't. It lodged in the willows down by the big schoolhouse. I don't know if you'll stop to look at that or not, the old Lodore Hall. So, they found it down there by the willows, but it had been about two weeks since he'd been killed, so the body was in bad shape. They couldn't get him in the box they had made for him to bury him in. But he is buried down in the cemetery, down by the big schoolhouse. If you go down there, you'll see lots of the old graves.

Amy: What was the reason for the killing?

Esther: Well, they wanted to rob him. They thought he had quite a bit of money here. And he did during the year. He would take in lots of money in his store, for everything. But he had just been to town to pay his bills, his year's bills. He went once a year to pay his bills and he'd just been in to pay all these bills. But he kept one \$100 bill as a novelty, just to show people. He had that in

his safe. He had a good, heavy safe that he kept his money in. They thought all his money was in there yet, so they killed him, then blew the safe up, knocked it to pieces and tore it up and got the \$100 bill, of course, it was a disappointment to them, and left.

Well, the day that they came down here, Arlie Radosevich's father, Charlie Teeters, had met them coming down the canyon as he was going up with his team and wagon. He was going to Rock Springs to buy his supplies and he met them coming down. Well, the next day when he came back with his wagon and team he met them going up, leading Jarvie's horse, an old mare, and they had her loaded with the loot out of his store, just so packed she could hardly travel. It was really so much that they had to stop down here about where my mailbox and the others are down here at the turn and they hid some of the stuff there behind a rock. They couldn't haul it. The mare couldn't haul it all.

So, they left and then a few days later, or right away, I suppose, the next day, they began to get all upset about Jarvie just disappearing, trying to find out who had done it, tried to follow him. The son, the youngest son, Jarvie Boy, followed them, but he was just a day too late every place. They'd stopped in a sheep camp one night and he would get there that night. So, he was that far behind and no way to hold them up because there was no way to send word ahead by radio or telephone or any way. So he was just that far behind all the way up into Idaho. He got to Idaho and got him a room at the hotel. They evidently had heard about his following them, so they stayed in this hotel, too, that is, we just supposed that that's who it was. They got him in his room and when he was in his room they pushed him out of a two-story window and he lit on his head on the sidewalk below and killed him, too.

So, nothing's ever been done any more about catching them. They were sheepherders who worked for Ford DeJournette, up here in Wyoming, and he just followed them that far behind. So, that's the way things went. They never could catch anybody doing anything. Sometimes, they hung them on suspicion, as they did Bennett.

[Pause]

Esther: This article is... The *Craig Empire Courier* asked me to write this for their, it's called the Craig-Moffat Golden Jubilee, 50 Years of Progress. It was 50 years since Craig was made a town. It was in 1958. So, this was all taken from my notes from Josie and Ann.

"One of the first people to come settle in Brown's Park permanently was Uncle Sam Bassett, who came in first as an army scout in 1851. With him came Louis Simmons, who was Kit Carson's son-in-law. Sam Bassett settled on lower Willow Creek where the Steve Radosevich family now lives. He died at the age of 76 with his niece, Josie, at this same place.

"Above Sam Bassett's holdings on upper Willow Creek was Jim Goodson's place and other of the first settlers. Warren D. Parsons and his wife, Snappin' Annie, came in 1854 to settle on the Lower Green Meadows, later known as Hoy Bottoms. Snappin' Annie, who came into the Park driving her team of oxen, Turk and Lion, is Brown's Park's first white woman."

She came in gee-ing and hawing and so on. [Laughter.]

"Dr. Parson's son, Warren, and his wife, Loretta, later came and settled above Willow Creek and across the river on the place later owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Taylor, parents of Marie Allen, that's just across the river over here. With his abilities as a doctor, he was able to give most valuable assistance to the people of early Brown's Park. An amusing story is told

about Dr. Parsons at the time of his death. Since he was an atheist, his wife tried to tell him there was a god and a hereafter and asked him if he couldn't believe in that. But Parsons, who was still not fully convinced, answered, 'I don't know, Loretta, but I'll damn soon find out.' He's buried on the Parsons' place across the river.

"Others of the very first settlers were two half-brothers of Spanish blood, Joel and Pablo Herrera. Both were politicians in Mexico and fled as political refugees to Brown's Park, following maps of Father Escalante. Pablo Herrera lived on the spring now owned by Mrs. Raftopoulos, which is still known as Pablo Springs."

If you go back out that way....

End of tape